

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 563

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT FORD

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM LEO WOLLEMBORG, CORRESPONDENT FOR ROME'S IL TEMPO AND VENICE'S IL GAZZETTINO, FOR A WRITTEN INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT. WOLLEMBORG IS A SOLID AND WELL RESPECTED AMERICAN JOURNALIST WHO IS WELL DISPOSED TO THE EMBASSY AND THE USG'S FOREIGN POLICY TOWARD ITALY. IN JULY WOLLEMBORG HAD A WRITTEN INTERVIEW WITH GOVERNOR CARTER (PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CLARIFICATION OF HIS VIEWS ON PCI) AND HAS ASKED FOR A FOLLOW-UP INTERVIEW WITH HIM. WOLLEMBORG DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER GOVERNOR CARTER WILL GRANT ANOTHER INTERVIEW BEFORE THE ELECTION. WOLLEMBORG DOES NOT WANT TO APPEAR PARTISAN AND THEREFORE HAS SUBMITTED QUESTIONS FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT.

2. EMBASSY REALIZES THAT THE PRINCIPAL FOCUS BETWEEN NOW AND NOVEMBER 2 IS WITH THE AMERICAN MEDIA. HOWEVER, THERE MIGHT BE WAYS THAT AN INTERVIEW OF THIS TYPE WRITTEN FOR ITALIAN CONSUMPTION CAN BE REPLAYED WITH THE AMERICAN PRESS.

3. THE QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY WOLLEMBORG FOR WHICH HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO OBTAIN WRITTEN RESPONSES, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. GOVERNOR CARTER HAS SAID THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE IN THE REAL POSSIBILITY OF LIMITING NUCLEAR WAR. THEN HE SUGGESTED THAT THERE COULD BE A US-SOVIET UNDERSTANDING NEVER TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS

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TO SETTLE DISPUTES. THESE PRONOUNCEMENTS HAVE BEEN GREETED WITH

CONCERN AND SKEPTICISM IN WESTERN EUROPE.

WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS AND INTENTIONS IN THIS CONNECTION? DO YOU FEEL THAT NATO'S DOCTRINE OF "FLIXIBLE RESPONSE" IS STILL VALID AND WHY?

2. IN RECENT TIMES, YOU HAVE DROPPED THE TERM "DETENTE" AND USED, INSTEAD, "PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH". WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS SWITCH WHICH APPEARS TO INVOLVE MORE THAN SEMANTICS?

3. YOU HAVE STATED TIME AND AGAIN THAT THE US OPPOSES COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT OF COUNTRIES SUCH AS ITALY AND WOULD HAVE TO RECONSIDER ITS POSITION WITHIN NATO IF FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE ADMITTED COMMUNISTS INTO THEIR GOVERNMENTS. WOULD YOU ENVISAGE A MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH IF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY, FOR INSTANCE, SHOULD PROVIDE CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF ITS AUTONOMY FROM MOSCOW? WHAT YARDSTICKS WOULD YOU USE TO GUAGE THE "ACCEPTABILITY" OF WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNISTS AS PARTNERS IN THEIR COUNTRIES' GOVERNMENTS?

4. IN RECENT YEARS, THERE HAS BEEN A FEELING ABROAD THAT THE US HAS BECOME LUKEWARM, AT BEST, TOWARD WEST EUROPEAN UNIFICATION. IS THIS FEELING CORRECT? WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE SUBJECT?

5. WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS AND YOUR VIEWS WITH REGARD TO TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE EEC COUNTRIES (TARIFFS, IMPORT QUOTAS, ETC.)?VOLPE

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